

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 4-19 are pending in this application. The Office Action objects to claims 3-9; rejects claims 1 and 2 under 35 U.S.C. §102(a); and rejects claims 1, 2 and 10-19 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e). By this Amendment, the specification is amended, claims 1 and 4-7 are amended and claims 2-3 are canceled. No new matter is added.

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 3-9 are only objected to, and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

I. Objections

The Office Action objects to claims 3-9 for being dependent upon a rejected base claim. The Office Action asserts that claims 3-9 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including the allowable limitations of base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants hereby incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 3 into instant independent claim 1, amend instant claim 6 to be in independent form, amend claims 4, 5 and 7, and cancel claims 2 and 3.

The incorporation of allowable subject matter from claim 3 into independent claim 1, from which claims 4-5 and 7-9 depend, as amended, and the inclusion of limitations of claim 1 into independent claim 6 have rendered claims 1 and 4-19 allowable.

For at least the foregoing reasons, claims 1 and 4-19 are allowable. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection are earnestly solicited.

II. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) and §102(e)

The Office Action rejects claims 1 and 2 under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as anticipated by WO 02/086624 A1; and rejects claims 1, 2 and 10-19 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by Neef. Applicants hereby incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 3 into instant independent claim 1, amend instant claim 6 to be in independent form, and cancel claims 2 and 3.

Applicants' incorporation of allowable subject material from claim 3 into independent instant claim 1, from which claims 10-19 depend, and cancellation of claims 2 and 3, renders instant claims 1 and 10-19 patentable over WO 02/086624 A1 and Neef. Additionally, amended claim 1, more fully clarifies that each Y is independently a direct bond or -C(=O)-. Similarly, the specification has been amended for clarity. These amendments are supported by the disclosure as filed.

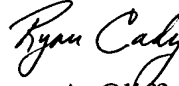
For at least the foregoing reasons, instant claims 1 and 10-19 are not anticipated by WO 02/086624 A1 or Neef. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are earnestly solicited.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1 and 4-19 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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